

Working for North Central Washington

Project Highlights - FY 2003 -

This region includes Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties.

(For Benton, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties see our Central Washington section at <http://murray.senate.gov/region-central/>)

ECONOMY

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/economy>

Port of Chelan Community Technology Center, Wenatchee (\$250,000)

The Port of Chelan will use this funding to complete the construction and development of the Community Technology Center in Wenatchee. The center will serve as a small business incubator. It will provide education and job skills training with the goal of retaining and attracting technology-based businesses. The project will create an estimated 400 direct and indirect family-wage jobs.

Rural Community Assessments (\$90,000)

The Washington State Rural Development Council will use the funding to help rural communities assess strengths and weaknesses, develop strategies to meet their economic, community, and human service goals, and link them to resources to build on and implement local plans. The Town of Quincy, Washington and the surrounding region recently went through the community assessment process. It was a huge success and this funding will help the council to reach out to many more rural communities.

HEALTH CARE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/healthcare>

CAP Health Care Program for the Uninsured (\$120 million nationwide)

This program provides a healthcare safety net for uninsured and underinsured working and low income families. In North Central Washington, families without insurance can get health care through the Community Choice PHCO Network which serves Chelan, Okanogan and Douglas Counties. This network is supported by a federal grant through the Community Access Program (CAP). It is one of four Washington CAP grantees based in Spokane, Wenatchee, Olympia and Seattle. In 2003, the Bush administration tried to eliminate the CAP program. Senator Murray succeeded in saving the program and providing the funding that allows it to continue serving families in North Central Washington.

See also: www.hispokane.org

Veteran's Health Care

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/veterans>

During the 107th Congress, Senator Murray continued her work to improve access to health care for Washington's veterans, especially for those in the most under-served parts of our state.

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Veterans across North Central and Northwest Washington often must travel extremely long distances to consult a physician for basic health care. In 2002, Senator Murray wrote legislation to create a pilot program to provide basic medical services to veterans in Whatcom, Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Murray's legislation would supply trained medical staff to veterans on a weekly basis, offering basic health care, diagnostic services, and needed referrals to appropriate medical facilities. Murray's amendment passed the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in June 2002, however, it was dropped during the House-Senate Conference. Murray will try again this year.

TRANSPORTATION

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/transportation>

Pangborn Memorial Airport - Landing System (\$2 million in FY 2003)

This airport is in Wenatchee, Washington. The funding will support an advanced Mark 20A Instrument navigational system to improve the airport's air traffic control system.

Omak Airport - Transponder Landing System (\$2 million in FY 2003)

This funding will help bring a transponder landing system to Omak Airport to help improve air traffic control and safety. Sen. Murray helped to add funding for this priority during conference.

Link Transit (\$336,000 FY 2002)

This funding was used to upgrade equipment on buses serving Chelan and Douglas Counties.

AGRICULTURE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/agriculture>

Rural Technology (\$900,000)

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/telecom>

The Rural Technology Transfer Initiative to continue to help small landowners use up-to-date technology to maximize timber harvest while protecting important habitat.

Western Wheat Quality Lab (\$75,000 increase in FY 2003)

Senator Murray secured a \$75,000 increase in funding for the WWQL in Pullman. This facility conducts research to ensure that Washington's wheat farmers are producing a crop that is competitive in overseas markets, especially Asia. Wheat is Washington's number one agricultural export, bringing \$878 million into our state.

Animal Research (\$900,000)

This funding will support initiatives at WSU to make sure that livestock producers have disease-free animals and to conduct research on animal diseases to ensure that our agriculture industry is prepared for a possible future attack on the U.S. food supply.

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Organic Crop Research (\$125,000)

Organic crops are the fastest growing section of Washington's agricultural economy. The Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources is developing a comprehensive organic farming research and education program to assist Washington State's organic producers. The Center will address project areas that are not covered by competitive grants, including: development of certified organic experimental land; organic seed protection and production technology; integrating nutrient management, water management, and pest control; organic weed control methods; and effect of production practices on food quality. The project will benefit consumers, the environment, and both organic and conventional farmers.

Rural and Farmworker Housing Trust, Statewide Initiative (\$200,000)

The housing trust will use the funding to kickstart its operations. The new organization will raise funding to create affordable housing for farmworkers in Washington State. RAFHT is the result of four years of work between Senator Murray, the Latino community, farmers, and affordable housing developers. Senator Murray has joined with leaders in these communities to address Washington State's tremendous need for safe and affordable farmworker housing. RAFHT's goal will be to raise the tens of millions of dollars needed to build new -- and rehabilitate existing -- farmworker housing throughout the state.

Protecting Washington State Tree Fruit from Viruses (\$250,000)

The NRSP-5 facility at Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington is responsible for obtaining and distributing virus-free deciduous tree fruit material to farmers. Rapid foreign and domestic exchange of varieties is essential for the continued economic vitality of the U.S. tree fruit and nursery industries. The facility will use the funding to implement new technologies for more rapid and dependable methods of pathogen detection and to provide secure production and maintenance of virus-free fruit tree cultivars.

ENVIRONMENT

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/environment>

Salmon Habitat (\$4 million)

This funding will allow the Forrester Service to acquire stream side lands important to salmon habitat and recovery efforts, including acquisitions in Okanogan County.

Wenatchee Valley College Institute for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (\$200,000)

The college will use this funding to complete the construction of the Institute for Rural Innovation and Stewardship. The Institute will focus on returning vitality to family-based agriculture while encouraging environmental stewardship. Programs will include practicing sound farm management, developing alternative marketing strategies, and integrating applied technology. All farmers, including low-income Latino farmers, will benefit from the Institute.

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SECURITY

See also: http://murray.senate.gov/homeland_security

Wenatchee Fire and Rescue (\$10,141)

This grant went to the Wenatchee Fire and Rescue on 08-20-01.

New Police Officers for North Central Washington

<http://murray.senate.gov/justice>

Since 1993, Senator Murray's support of the COPS program has put more than 1,800 new police officers on Washington streets, including:

NORTH CENTRAL REGION	34.6 *	\$2,152,755
Chelan County	19.7	\$1,279,047
Douglas County	2	\$150,000
Okanogan County	12.9	\$723,708

* Note: Decimals reflect that some county police departments only requested a portion of a full-time officer's salary.

Senator Murray has championed the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. She voted for the law that created it in 1993, and every year she has worked to fund this effort to put new police officers on the streets of these communities where they work closely with residents. See also: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>